

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 25-27 without disclaimer or prejudice.

1.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A process for increasing fire resistance of a combustible material comprising:

contacting a porous combustible material with a soluble silicate solution under conditions so as to impregnate pores within the combustible material with said silicate solution;

heat treating said impregnated combustible material at an elevated temperature to dehydrate said silicate solution to form a soluble silicate substance within the pores of said combustible material and further heat treating said soluble silicate within said pores to cause said soluble silicate to become less soluble in water.

23. (Previously Presented) A process for imparting fire retardancy to combustible materials comprising:

impregnating said combustible materials with a soluble silicate solution; ;

polymerizing the soluble silicate within said solution to form a water insoluble silicate based substance;

said polymerizing including the step of dehydrating said silicate solution and heat treating the resulting silicate to form said water insoluble silicate based substance.

24. (Previously Cancelled)

25. - 27. (Cancelled)